Indonesian President's Visit

*738. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indonesian President visited India in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the purpose of visit was to strengthen economic ties;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. H.E. Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia paid a State Visit to India from 1-5 April, 2002.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to strengthen bilateral ties in all fields including the economic.

(c) and (d) There following Agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit:

(i) MOU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN) on Cooperation in the Field of Outer Space Research and Development;

(ii) MOU concerning setting up of a Vocational Training Centre for Construction Sector in Jakarta;

(iii) Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders.

Eradication of Poverty

*739. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate funds are blocking developmental goals to reduce poverty to half by 2015; and

(b) the action proposed to set up efforts to remove economic hurdles for fulfilment of millennium goals to eradicate poverty?